

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06729 231213Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 OMB-01 /091 W
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P R 230800Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2056

INFO CINAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR JA US

LSUBJECH: MEDIA REPORTS PRESIDENT'S MAY 21 MEETING WITH FONMIN OHIRA

SUMMARY: JAPANESE MEDIA GAVE FULL PLAY TO OHIRA-NIXON MEETING REPORTING THAT THEY DISCUSSED US-JAPAN JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIA, MID-EAST AND GENERAL SITUATION IN ASIA, BUT THAT NEITHER SIDE RAISED SUBJECT OF EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY PRESIDENT AND EMPEROR. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL MEDIA FEATURED FONMIN OHIRA CALL ON PRESIDENT AT WHITE HOUSE AS TOP NEWS STORY EVENING MAY 22 AND STRESSED POSITIVE NATURE OF PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE TO FONMIN OHIRA IN DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITY OF JOINT US-JAPAN DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIA DESIRED BY JAPAN. ACCORDING TO FONMIN PRESS BRIEFING WHICH FOLLOWED, PRESIDENT EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF JAPANESE POSITION OUTLINED BY FONMIN, AND WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER JOINT DEVELOPMENT POSITIVELY. PRESS COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT DISCUSSIONS DID NOT TOUCH UPON SPECIFICS OR US DOMESTIC CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MILITATE AGAINST US PARTICIPATION, SUCH AS DIFFICULTIES FACING RELEVANT LEGISLATION IN CONGRESS.

2. ALL MEDIA REPORTED THAT NEITHER SIDE RAISED SUBJECT
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 06729 231213Z

OF EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY PRESIDENT AND EMPEROR. HOWEVER,

MEDIA REPORTED SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT BY DEPUTY PRESS
OFFICER WARREN THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN PRESIDENT'S

DESIRE TO VISIT JAPAN THIS YEAR, AND TO WELCOME VISIT TO US
BY EMPEROR. WARREN STATEMENT WAS DESCRIBED IN MEDIA
COMMENTARY AS RESTATEMENT OF OLD POSITION DESIGNED TO REFUTE
US DOMESTIC CRITICISM THAT IMPEACHMENT PROBLEM POSES ADVERSE
EFFECT ON AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS. MAINICHI REPORTED
FONMIN PRESS STATEMENT THAT VISIT WAS NOT RAISED QTE BECAUSE
IT ALREADY SETTLED UNQTE. MAINICHI COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT
VISIT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE UNDER PRESENT US DOMESTIC
CIRCUMSTANCES. ASAHI COMMENTED THAT IT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT
TO SCHEDULE VISITS, WHICH REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE ADVANCE PREPARA-
TION, BECAUSE OF UNCERTAIN COURSE OF IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS. IN
ADDITION, ASAHI COMMENTED THAT US ATTACHES LOWER PRIORITY TO
THIS EXCHANGE OF VISITS THAN TO OTHER QTE FOREIGN EXCURSIONS
UNQTE BY PRESIDENT. YOMIURI QUESTIONED WHETHER UNUSUAL
ABSENCE OF REFERENCE TO VISITS DURING HIGH-LEVEL TALKS IMPLIED
CHANGE OF POSITION ON EITHER, OR BOTH SIDES.

3. MOST MEDIA REPORTED THAT FONMIN OHIRA EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION FOR US EFFORTS TO RESTORE PEACE, TO WHICH
PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT SUCCESS OF EFFORT DEPENDS ON
COOPERATION OF ALL NATIONS, NOT JUST US POWER.

4. MEDIA REPORTED THAT DISCUSSION OF SITUATION IN ASIA
WAS LIMITED TO GENERAL REVIEW BY FONMIN OHIRA.

#. CONSIDERABLE POSITIVE COVERAGE WAS GIVEN BY ALL MEDIA
TO QTE SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT UNQTE ON US-JAPAN JOINT ENERGY
R&D PROGRAM REACHED BY DEPSEC RUSH AND FONMIN OHIRA DURING
LUNCHEON WHICH FOLLOWED WHITE HOUSE CALL.
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